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Statement submitted by All-Russiaa Public Organization of Disabled People with Multiple Sclerosis, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

In September 2011, Member States and heads of Government turned attention to prevention and better control for non-communicable diseases globally. For the first time, worldwide leaders reached consensus on specific measures in dealing with the diseases.

Developed countries' economy capacities have grown, finances for health systems increased, prevention, diagnostics and therapy novice methods are being introduced. However, the average consumer's satisfaction with medical services remains low. At most, 40 per cent of Russians are happy with the medical aid they receive. Our NGO, All-Russian Public Organization of Disabled People with Multiple Sclerosis, has put forward an initiative for public control in healthcare as a system to negotiate obstacles in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

We call upon the world community to consider the frightening mortality figures provided by the World Health Organization (WHO): 64 million deaths are expected in the world in 2014, including 17 million deaths caused by infectious diseases, maternal and perinatal conditions and nutritional deficiencies, and 41 million deaths — up 17 per cent compared with 10 years ago — from chronic non-communicable diseases, nearly half of which (20 million) will be caused by cardiovascular conditions.

Health care is the main investment in economic development of our civilization and poverty reduction. Developing health-care capacities for the poor brings big profits for society altogether, the well-off included. Diseases are destructive for poor people and national economies, decreasing manpower quantity and efficiency and depleting savings and investments.

People suffering from poverty and discrimination are more vulnerable to diseases due to deprivations and psychological stress, gender inequality, unhealthy life conditions and a limited access to quality health-care services. Therefore, we urge Governments to support national programmes to help patients with chronic diseases, improve the efficiency of these existing programmes and organize a public control system to ensure their implementation.

If we decrease chronic diseases by mere 2 per cent, as WHO expects, we could save 36 million lives by 2015. To achieve the targets to enhance the efficiency of financing the health-care system in the Russian Federation, our organization seeks to arrange a public control system in health care through various facilities to monitor health-care issues, as well as holding public hearings and audits, including regular involvement and drawing attention of media as well as public councils at health bodies.

Russian authorities have supported public control in the area of health care, but the experiences and inputs of the international community are essential to efficiently make this system work. We propose the creation of a discussion platform to exchange experiences in public control in health care and encourage non-governmental organizations concerned to join this platform's activities.